

In the Specification

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, line 26 through page 4, line 25 as follows:

The separating column according to the present invention has a channel for a fluid flow having molecules to be analyzed (analyte molecules). The channels may be implemented by structuring trenches in a semiconductor disk, such as a silicon disk, and covering the silicon disk with a second silicon disk or a glass disk, for example. The manufacturing of such a channel structure is described, for example, in DE 19726000. The channel has opposing curves having turning points at which the curve direction preferably changes alternately. In this way, the channel receives a meandering geometry. A turning point as defined in the present invention as-is a point at which the curved direction of the channel and therefore also the flow direction of the fluid stream flowing through the channel changes infleets to the particular other direction opposite curvature. That is, a turning point is to be understood in a mathematical way as an inflection point along the channel. A fluid stream as defined in the present invention is any gas or liquid stream. A curve as defined in the present invention is understood as any curved region portion of the channel having the same curve direction (curvature). That is, Such a curve is a portion of the channel that lies between two directly sequential turning points, which mark a change to the particular other direction opposite changes in curvature of the channel. In the separating column according to the present invention, the mean diameter of the channel is larger than the path which an analyte molecule covers through diffusion on its way between two sequential turning points that each mark an identical direction change in curvature. These sequential turning points that each mark an identical change in curvature are to be understood as turning points which are located at the beginning of sequential curves that each have the same curve direction (curvature).

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, line 27 through page 5, line 12 as follows:

There is an essentially laminar flow in a separating column channel. The present invention is now based on the surprising recognition that the "racetrack" effect described above may be avoided if the column geometry is designed so that an analyte molecule on the inside of the curve (the "inside track") is prevented from being able to reach the diametrically opposite side (the "outside track") of the separating column channel through diffusion on the way from one turning point to the next turning point having identical direction curvature-change. For this purpose, in the separating column according to the present invention, the channel diameter and/or cross-section is made larger than the diffusion path which an analyte molecule must cover on the way between two sequential turning points that mark the same direction change (i.e. two sequential turning points that each mark an identical change in curvature). In this way, the analyte molecules remain essentially on their track and do not change between "inside track" and "outside track" in a way which results in a strong defocusing of the analyte package.